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Friday, January 25, 1963

Allen-Scott Report

New A-Warheads, Bombs Shipped To Cuba, Intelligence Indicates

By ROBERT S. ALLEN and PAUL SCOTT

There are ominous new signs that Russia is again building a formidable stockpile of nuclear weapons in Cuba.

By using the same tight security methods employed in shipping missiles and bombers last October, the Kremlin is believed to be sneaking atomic warheads and bombs to the island.

The Navy has uncovered some convincing evidence of this clandestine operation.

Low-flying reconnaissance planes, equipped with special surveillance instruments, detected "fissionable material" aboard three Russian vessels docking at ports near Havana and Banes within the past 10 days.

This "hot" nuclear cargo was unloaded from the Semperpol, Michurinski and Anganskles, three of the 150 Soviet bloc cargo ships that now regularly ply the Russia-to-Cuba run. These vessels are still in Cuba loading for their return trip.

That's the dark heart of a Naval Intelligence report which is keeping President Kennedy's new interagency Cuban task force burning lights late at night at their headquarters in the State Department.

Cuban refugee reports already have indirectly confirmed the Naval Intelligence estimate. These refugees, arriving in the U.S. last week, brought information from the Cuban underground that heavy lead caskets, similar to those used for carrying nuclear warheads and bombs, were unloaded by Soviet military personnel under strict security measures. All Cubans were barred from the dock area during the unloading.

THE JOINT CHIEFS of Staff ordered the Navy's air and sea surveillance of the three Russian vessels after the Pentagon received reports from Turkey that the Soviet skippers refused to declare their cargoes or destination in passing through the Turkish strait.

According to the Naval report, two of the ships communicated with radio stations in Russia during the entire trip from their home port on the Black Sea. All messages were transmitted in a secret code which is different from that used by the Soviets in their communications with Cuba.

Actual detection of the "fissionable material" was made when the Naval reconnaissance planes flew at mast height over the Russian ships in international waters about 100 miles

from Cuba. The planes made several passes to make sure their instruments were recording accurately.

High-flying U-2 reconnaissance flights over the ships while docked also produced pictures of large crates being unloaded from both the Semperpol and Anganskles.

Note: During recent U-2 flights over Cuba, the Soviet military operations center there has sent out specific instructions that the planes be tracked by missile radar stations but not intercepted.



Mr. Allen

MAKING IT PAY — The abortive Cuba invasion, which already cost U.S. taxpayers more than \$75 million, has really paid off for the former Central Intelligence Agency official who masterminded the military fiasco.

Richard Bissell, one-time CIA deputy for covert operations, is now the \$45,000-a-year president of the Institute of Defense Analyses, a private tax-exempt group that was set up to handle some of the government's most secret defense planning.

The lush-paying job, netting Bissell double the salary he received at CIA, was arranged for him by high officials in the Defense and State Departments after CIA Director John McCone dropped Bissell following a full review of the Bay of Pigs debacle.

Main sources of income of Bissell's organization are the Defense and State Departments, and the U.S. Disarmament Agency. Records now in the hands of a House Investigating Subcommittee headed by Representative Wright Patman, D-Tex., show that the Bissell group received study contracts from these agencies totaling \$8 million during 1962.

CUBAN FLASHES — The Justice Department dropped its plans to seek grand jury action against 13 anti-Castro freedom fighters, arrested as they prepared to leave Florida for Cuba last November, after defense attorneys threatened to subpoena top CIA and FBI officials. If called to testify, these officials would have been asked to detail the help they had given these refugees before the President offered his no-invasion pledge to Premier Khrushchev.

The latest U.S. Intelligence estimate shows there are still approximately 30,000 Russian soldiers, military advisers and technicians in Cuba. Representative Gerald Ford, R-Mich., a member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee that handles funds for the Central Intelligence Agency, says the number of Russians in Cuba has increased, not decreased, since November 1.